

Visa Category	Processing Steps	
	U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)	U.S. Consulate Abroad
B-1 Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary business visa used if participating in business activities of a commercial or professional nature in the U.S. Includes: consulting w/business associates, negotiating a contract Trip must be for business of a legitimate nature for a specific, limited period of time Must demonstrate ties to home country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals may be eligible to apply for change of status or extension of status while in the U.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexicans must apply for visa stamps at a U.S. Consulate
L-1 Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 3 years prior to the U.S. transfer, must have been employed for at least 1 year by parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch outside the U.S. in a managerial or “specialized knowledge” capacity Must be performing a managerial or “specialized knowledge” assignment in the U.S. Length of Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially approved for 3 years New office approved for 1 year Managers/Executives (L-1A) - total stay of 7 years in 2-year increments “Specialized Knowledge” (L-1B) - total stay of 5 years in 2-year increments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> File petition (unless Blanket L petition filing, which is filed with U.S. Consulate abroad directly) <u>May</u> premium Process (extra government filing of \$1,225 – 15 day processing unless Request for Evidence issued) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for L-1 visa stamp If Blanket L, then initial application is made at the U.S. Consulate
E-1/E-2 Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Company must have the nationality of a treaty country Employee must be a national of the same treaty country and must be engaged in executive/supervisory duties or have specialized qualifications that make his or her services essential to the operation of the U.S. company Must be engaged in international trade for E-1 Must have made substantial investment for E-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For persons abroad, no prior petition is required to be filed in the U.S. <u>May</u> premium Process (extra government filing of \$1,225 – 15 day processing unless Request for Evidence issued) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once an application for E-1/E-2 status has been approved by the consulate for the company, individual employees may apply directly at a U.S. Consulate
TN (NAFTA) Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be a Canadian or Mexican citizen Must be coming to the U.S. to engage in business activities at a professional level in certain pre-designated fields, including engineering and most scientific fields Must show intent to return to home country at the end of the U.S. assignment. May have to switch to H-1B when filing for permanent residence Length of Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved for 3 years and may be extended in 3-year increments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexicans file directly at a U.S. Consulate Individuals may be eligible to apply for change of status or extension of status while in the U.S. Premium processing available on extensions and change of employer petitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexicans must apply for visa stamps at a U.S. Consulate
H-1B Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be qualified as a “professional” Must hold the equivalent of a four-year university degree The U.S. assignment must require the attainment of that degree or its equivalent Length of Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-year limitation Initially approved for three years Eligible for one 3-year extension Can extend beyond 6-year limitation in limited circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> File petition <u>May</u> premium Process (extra government filing of \$1,225 – 15 day processing unless Request for Evidence issued) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexicans must apply for visa stamps at a U.S. Consulate